



Soco Transmission <socotransmission@gmail.com>

New Comment Submission

EDAW Engage <info@engage.edaw.com>

Mon, Sep 21, 2009 at 2:39 PM

To: info@socotransmission.com, dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov, douglas.johnston@aeacom.com

A new comment has been submitted at socotransmission.com.

COMMENT

Meeting Attended:

Blanca Scoping Meeting

Important Issues:

Land Use (Agriculture, Residential, Recreation), Water Resources (Floodplains, River Crossings), Historic and Cultural Sites, Radio or Television Interference, Noise, Health and Safety, Project Purpose and Need, Biological Resources, Visual / Aesthetic Resources, Other, Proximity to Residences

OTHER: Wetlands

Property Uses:

Residential

Comment:

We realize and support the importance of developing new infrastructures for the distribution of solar and other renewable energy sources.

We recently bought a full-time residence at 28009 Beekman Road in Sangre de Cristo Ranches Subdivision. Our residential property has various ecosystems. We have sagebrush on the east, Sangre de Cristo Creek with willows and wetland in the center area, and on the westerly side a large grove of narrow-leaf cottonwoods along with aspen, cedar, and other trees. A wetlands area is located along the rear of the property adjacent to the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad tracks and right-of-way. Wetlands also exist west of the home on the Santistevan property which is adjacent to our southerly property line. Wetlands are also on the westerly side of the railroad tracks. The railroad is approximately 100 feet from our house.

I-231-001

At the Blanco open-house, we learned Alternative Corridor 40 could affect our and other properties in the Sangre de Cristo Ranches Subdivision. If the transmission line passes over our house, we realize relocation would need to occur. The potential transmission line could affect wetlands and wildlife on our property. Our wetland, tree grove, and creek support many birds and animals. We have seen owls, red-tail hawks, red shafted flickers, mountain bluebirds, yellow finches, robins, hummingbirds, magpies, martens, ducks, and one crane on our property. We have also have deer, elk, and coyotes. Bear and bobcat have been seen by others.

Other personal concerns we have involve proximity to our home, visual impact, communications interference, and EMFs. As mentioned before, the lines could pass over our home. If it is located on or west of the railroad ROW, the line may be 150 to 250 feet from our home. This can create a negative visual impact to our property. We assume radio and television interference can occur. We believe the overall health effects of living in an EMF are unknown factors.

I-231-002
I-231-004

I-231-005

Right-of-way acquisition along Alternative 40 will involve negotiations with numerous property owners. I served as the Statewide Appraisal Supervisor for the Colorado Department of Transportation for 15

I-231-001: Wildlife (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to wildlife from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-231-002: Visual and Aesthetic (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to visual and aesthetic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-231-003: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-231-004: Electrical Characteristics (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Electrical characteristics of the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in

<http://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=760671f559&view=pt&search=inbox&msg...> 9/22/2009

- I-231-005** | years. My experience shows project acquisitions costs can be much greater when acquiring ROW from wetland and small subdivision land/residential ownerships than from large agricultural ranch holdings. Avoidance of wetlands and numerous small acquisitions is cost effective.
- I-231-006** | We support Alternative Corridor 37. The visual simulation points 8, 9, and 10 show minimal visual impact. For pole design, the steel monopole is less visually intrusive than the steel lattice structures.
- I-231-007** | If economically feasible, underground lines are preferable.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Travis L. and Maggie Trigg
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 488
City: Fort Garland
State: CO
Zip Code: 81133
Phone Number: 719-379-4126
Email Address: mtrigg@gojade.org
Receive Newsletter: on

late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-231-005: Land Rights (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. The process of acquisition of land rights for the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-231-006: Visual and Aesthetic (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to visual and aesthetic resources from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-231-007: Project Alternatives (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. A range of reasonable project alternatives and mitigation measures including the no action alternative will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

<http://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=760671f559&view=pt&search=inbox&msg...> 9/22/2009